

Contact: Kelly Cargill Crow, Vice President
E-mail: kellycrow@arkansastrucking.com
Office: 501.372.3462

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Arkansas Trucking Association accepting applications for Technician Scholarship

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – For the fifth year, the Arkansas Trucking Association plans to award scholarships of up to \$7,500 to students interested in pursuing careers as medium and heavy duty truck technicians. Scholarship applications are being accepted now through April 1, 2022, and are available at arkansastrucking.com/tech-scholarship.

"We are proud to have awarded \$52,500 in scholarships to seven students since establishing the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund, and we look forward to providing career paths for even more of these much-needed truck technicians in the years to come," said ATA President Shannon Newton. "This scholarship serves to provide our industry with more talented technicians – technicians who are responsible for ensuring the complex equipment that carries freight on our highways arrives safely to its destination."

ATA established the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2017 to encourage growth in the state's technician workforce and to help assure that the safest, most knowledgeable and skilled technicians are working on the trucks and trailers on our nation's roads.

Applicants must be graduating seniors from accredited high schools. Scholarships of up to \$7,500 will be awarded for students attending a minimum two-semester medium- and heavy-duty truck technician program at an Arkansas institution.

In 2017, ATA's Technician Curriculum Advisory Committee, which partners with educational institutions around the state to help shape skilled labor programs, founded the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund to encourage young Arkansans to pursue career paths as technicians in the trucking industry. The scholarship is named for the late Carl Tapp, the Council's first chairman, who was known for recognizing and empowering talent in the next generation of technicians.

"Carl was a dynamic leader in our industry and helped shape many careers," said Tapp's former colleague Kenneth Calhoun, fleet optimization manager at Altec. "Through this scholarship, we honor his legacy by recruiting and supporting the next generation of technicians as we work toward a stronger, more sustainable workforce for years to come."

Applications will be accepted through April 1, 2022, for students beginning coursework in August 2022 or January 2023, based on individual program requirements. ATA plans to name 2022 recipients by May 13. Contact Sarah Newman (sarahnewman@arkansastrucking.com) for more information about the Scholarship Fund, and find the application at www.arkansastrucking.com/tech-scholarship.

About the Arkansas Trucking Association: Since 1932, the Arkansas Trucking Association (ATA) has served as the voice of the trucking industry, promoting the vitality of this industry on which nearly 87 percent of Arkansas communities exclusively rely to move their goods. Made up of approximately 300 trucking and service companies, ATA helps members grow their business and profits while protecting the collective interests of trucking companies in the political and regulatory arenas.